



Fairfax County Public Library  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 324  
Fairfax, VA 22035



A Fairfax County, Va.  
publication



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# Loud and Clear

## Fall 2018

### Vol. 30 No. 3

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## **Notes from the Branch Manager's Desk**

Welcome to the autumn season! I am happy to report on a variety of projects and many more that are in the works.

This summer, Access Services Library partnered with the American Association for People with Disabilities REV UP campaign, the Fairfax County Office of Disability Services Planning and Development, the Fairfax County Office of Elections, the VIP Vienna and VIP Reston groups, and the Access Services Advisory Group to share information and resources focused on election and voting as our civic duty irrespective of our abilities or disabilities. We thank and acknowledge the support of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman, Sharon Bulova, who proclaimed July 16 -20, 2018 as Disability Voter Registration Awareness Week in Fairfax County.

Congratulations to Jeanette Horowitz, a distinguished member of our Access Services Advisory Group who was honored at the Fairfax County Public Library Friends Choice Awards on Wednesday October 10, 2018. Thank you Jeanette for the exemplary work that you have done for and on behalf of Access Services Library.

The "Duplication on Demand" project which is an enhancement to our current circulation system is currently in the testing phase. Please stay tuned for more updates as we plan to launch this feature soon.

Access Services is proud to announce that we have acquired 60 new audio described DVD's. In addition to the dialog and sound effects, the movies have descriptions of the screen action for people with visual disabilities. Please get ready to grab your popcorn or favorite snack and drink, because these titles will be available for lending soon. Contact your reader advisor

or Access Services Library at 703-324-8380; email [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more information.

While we are grateful for an amazing summer, our hearts go out to our sister libraries and their patrons who were affected by hurricanes Florence and Michael. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, hooray to the signing of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (MTIA). This act will facilitate international access to published works for the blind, visually impaired and the print disabled. More information can be found at [the Marrakesh Treaty](#).

Just a reminder: everyone's vote counts. I intend to vote during the upcoming Tuesday, November 6 election and I hope you do too!

Sincerely,

Rose Asuquo

Branch Manager,

Access Services, Fairfax County Public Library

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## Please Bear with Us

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is changing the process of how we will be receiving our supply of recorded books, the ones that we, in turn, send to you. It is a process where we will have fewer individual books on our shelves and more books on each cartridge. It is called Duplication on Demand (DOD). We ask for your patience as we get all the wrinkles worked out, then it will be a faster and more efficient process.

The important thing to know is that these changes will not affect the way you order book titles or the way we deliver books to you. There will be a slightly new routine for returning the items to us. There may be instances where there will be more than one book or magazine on a cartridge and

you will have to use the 'bookshelf' feature to navigate between the titles on the cartridge.

### **Using the Bookshelf Feature.**

The 'bookshelf' feature is used to navigate between multiple books or magazines on a single cartridge. When the cartridge is inserted into the player, the player announces how many books (or magazines) are on the cartridge. With the cartridge inserted into the player, hold down the green square play/stop button until you hear the word 'bookshelf.' After this, the number of books (or magazines) on the cartridge will be spoken a second time. Use the fast forward and rewind buttons to hear the different titles that are included on the cartridge. When you hear the title that you want to listen to, press the green play/stop button again and your selection will play. You can always return to the 'bookshelf', at any time, by depressing and holding down the green play/stop button.

If you prefer to have one book on one cartridge we will be able to provide this service for you as well.

Before this new procedure is implemented a staff member will contact you and explain any further details. As we learn the 'ins and outs' of this new process we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

The Access Services Staff

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## **Voting: Mid-term Elections**

The Fairfax County Office of Elections reminds everyone that voting for the mid-term elections will take place on Tuesday, November 6. This article will contain some reminders on the process but for complete information and questions please either visit the [Fairfax County Office of Elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections) or contact them via phone at 703-222-0776 or by email at [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Voting will take place on Tuesday, November 6. The deadline to register to vote was October 15. People will be voting for a United States Senator and a United States House of Representative. Polls will be open from 6:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

In order to vote, one must be registered and have a photo ID with them. Acceptable forms of identification are:

- Virginia driver's license
- Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- United States passport
- Employer-issued photo ID
- Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia
- Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID
- Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card.

Voting absentee is another option you may want to consider. There are 20 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia and the absentee voting process began on September 21. It can take place either by mail or in person. If you are voting by mail you need to request your ballot by 5:00 p.m. October 30, 2018 and the ballot needs to be returned to the Fairfax County Office of Elections by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6. In-person absentee voting occurs at several locations throughout the county. Many people find it very helpful to avoid the crowds and other Election Day distractions by voting absentee. Please use the contact information for the locations and hours where you can vote absentee.

Again, for more information on absentee voting or anything else concerning this year's elections contact the Office of Elections:

Phone 703-222-0776

Email [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

Please share this information with your neighbors and friends and remember to vote Tuesday, November 6.

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## Upcoming Holidays

The Access Services staff wants to remind you of the following upcoming holidays. All county offices will be closed on the stated holidays. Please be aware that over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays the library will be closed for multiple days. Remember to order all the books you will need for when we are closed. Thank you.

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Date Closed</b>
Veteran's Day	Monday, November 12
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 22
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23
Christmas Eve Day	Monday, December 24
Christmas	Tuesday, December 25
New Year's Day	Tuesday , January 1 , 2019
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 21, 2019

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## Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

President Donald J. Trump has signed into Law the “Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act” (MTIA). The House of Representatives passed the same Act earlier in October. The Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty and passed the implementing legislation in June. The MTIA makes changes to U.S. copyright law that would bring the United States into compliance with the terms of the Marrakesh Treaty.

The treaty, which so far has been ratified by 43 other countries, facilitates the reproduction and cross-border distribution of books in accessible formats. Once the implementing legislation is signed by the president and the State Department has formally notified the World Intellectual Property Organization—the treaty’s administrator—of its

ratification, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) will provide guidance on how it will impact NLS and its network libraries.

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## NFB Virginia State Convention

The National Federation of the Blind of Virginia will have their annual State Convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia on the weekend of November 9-11. This will be the 60<sup>th</sup> State Convention.

There will be interactive workshops, experiential learning, networking opportunities, and social activities. There are plans for learning opportunities for students, seniors, professionals and parents.

If you have questions contact Sarah Patnaude, Corresponding Secretary, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia at [patnaude.sarah@yahoo.com](mailto:patnaude.sarah@yahoo.com) or (804) 591-6153.

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## Spotting Fake News

(Libraries that serve the low-vision community throughout the country often share ideas. This one arrived from the 'California Braille and Talking Book Library News', Fall 2017, no. 18 which they adapted from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Librarians from Fairfax County had also recently conducted a similar program entitled "News, Blues and How to Difuse." I thought the information was valuable for the LOUD AND CLEAR audience. ---Ken Plummer, editor)

The term "fake news" has been on everybody's lips for a few months now. Here are some tips to understand what fake news is and some strategies to deal with it in the changing media landscape that we live in.

- What is fake news?

Fake news is misinformation. It can be intentionally misleading or the result of inadequate research and reporting.

Fake news may not be 100% untrue. It may contain true but incomplete information, giving an unbalanced view of an issue or topic, or it may be a mixture of real and fake information.

- How does fake news spread?

Social media platforms give fake news an opportunity to be shared, “liked,” and spread within communities very quickly. And it can also be spread by traditional news sources like newspapers and TV.

- How can you determine if a story is fake news?

Check multiple sources. Does the story in question show up anywhere else or only in one place? If you can’t corroborate it, it might be fake!

Consider the source. If it is an organization, what is its mission? This can give you a clue about possible bias.

- Is it an advertisement or “sponsored content?”

Check the date! Old, “recycled” stories make the rounds, sometimes after they’ve been disproved or new information has come to light.

Use fact checking websites like [Snopes.com](https://snopes.com), [FactCheck.org](https://factcheck.org), or [Politifact.com](https://politifact.com) if you doubt a story. These sites aren’t infallible, but they can be an excellent tool in your fight against fake news.

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## Food for Fines

FCPL will be hosting our first food drive program, called "Food for Fines," during the month of November. Patrons will have the opportunity to donate canned goods and other non-perishable items to waive fines on accounts. Food items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit organization that serves Fairfax County. Each week leading up to the start of the food drive, we will be posting details, information and ideas about the program on the library website (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>). For more details call Access Services at 703-324-8380.

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## Reading Roundup

Sometimes the staff of Access Services is asked, “What are other Access Services Talking Book customers reading?” To partially answer that question these titles have had the largest number of downloads from BARD in the last three months.

### **Fear: Trump in the White House** by Bob Woodward **DB 91876**

Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist details the decision-making process for both foreign and domestic policy within the Trump administration. Draws on interviews with firsthand sources, meeting notes, diaries, files, and documents. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

### **Two Kinds of Truth** by Michael Connelly **DB 89408**

While volunteering for the San Fernando police, Harry Bosch is sent out with the town's three-person detective squad to a drugstore where a young pharmacist has been murdered. Meanwhile, an old case from Bosch's LAPD days comes back to haunt him when a long-imprisoned killer claims Harry framed him. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

### **Midnight Line: A Jack Reacher Novel** by Lee Child **DB 89410**

Strolling through a small Wisconsin town, Reacher sees a 2005 West Point class ring in a pawn shop window. The ring is tiny, for a woman, and it has her initials engraved on the inside. Reacher decides to find out what unlucky circumstance made her give it up. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

### **President Is Missing** by Bill Clinton and James Patterson **DB 91164**

A threat so huge that it jeopardizes not just Pennsylvania Avenue and Wall Street, but all of America. Uncertainty and fear grip the nation. There are whispers of cyber terror and espionage and a traitor in the cabinet. Even the President himself becomes a suspect, and then he disappears from public view. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

And customers have enquired about holiday stories...

### **My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories** by Stephanie Perkins **DB 80242**

Twelve romantic holiday stories featuring authors such as Holly Black, Ally Carter, Gayle Foreman, Rainbow Rowell, and more. In "Midnights," Mags expresses how she feels about the past New Year's Eves and finally levels with her best friend, Noel. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

**Winter Wonderland** by Fern Michaels **DB 75930**

Four Christmas love stories. In Fern Michaels's title piece an actress/bartender and a trauma surgeon vacationing at a ski resort question their career choices. Also includes Leslie Meier's "The Christmas Thief," Holly Chamberlin's "The Joy of Christmas," and Kristina McMorris's "The Christmas Collector." Bestseller. 2012.

**A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens **DB 43546**

Classic nineteenth-century Christmas story set in England describes the conversion of grasping old miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, when he is visited by ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. 1967.

**A Christmas Story** by Jean Shepherd **DBC 13520**

This edition of **A Christmas Story** gathers together in one hilarious volume the gems of autobiographical humor that Jean Shepherd drew upon to create the film of the same name. The first four stories in the collection were previously published in **In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash (DB 48446)** and the fifth story in **Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories and Other Disasters (DB 41950)**. Taken together, they coalesce in a magical fashion equal to the film that warms the heart and tickles the funny bone.

NOTE: Available from BARD courtesy of the Indiana State Library, Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library.

**The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg **DB 23625**

On Christmas Eve, a boy boards a mysterious train, the Polar Express, and he makes a magical trip to the North Pole to visit Santa Claus. For preschool-grade 2 and older readers. Caldecott Medal award. 1985.

**The Nutcracker** by Janet Schulman **DB 18430**

A retelling of the original 1816 story by E.T.A. Hoffmann on which Tchaikovsky based his ballet. This version explains why the King of Mice and the Nutcracker are bitter enemies and how the grotesque Nutcracker is transformed. For grades 3-6 and older readers.

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## Friends Helping Friends

Greetings! I'm Ken Plummer, the Outreach Manager of the Access Services Library. I am infiltrating the Access Services Advisory Group and I am writing the FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS article for this issue of 'Loud and Clear' (It really isn't much of an infiltration as I have attended several meetings as Outreach Manager.)

I want to acknowledge these volunteers for their encouragement and support of accessible library services. I invite you to join them. They share their knowledge and experiences, providing the Access Services staff, the Talking Book customers and the community at large with information and resources that they have found to be beneficial. I want to thank them for contributing so many wonderful articles to this newsletter including those on accessible art programs, grocery shopping services, airline travel tips and many others. They have provided practical and useful insights and are interested in what ideas and services you, as readers, would like the FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS articles to discuss. Anyone who is interested in supporting library services to individuals with disabilities is welcome to become a part of this dedicated and friendly group of people. Please call Access Services at 703-324-8380 with article suggestions or for more information on the Access Services Advisory Group. Let your voice be heard.

I would also like to announce the new Fairfax Talking Book Club. This programming idea has been discussed many times and I think this will work as a starting point. I have selected three books that I hope you might be interested in reading or re-reading. Read one, read two, or read all three. Share your enjoyment or disappointment in the book by emailing us or calling us ([access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-8380. NOTE: you can call after 5:00 p.m. and leave a message on the phone).

To begin the 'conversation' think about these questions:

1.) What did you like or dislike about the book? (For example think about settings, characters or narrative style.)

2.) Complete this sentence. "After reading the book, I felt ..."

3.) What rating would you give the book (1 -5 bookmarks, 5 bookmarks being the highest rating).

You can also make suggestions for the next books to be read. I will briefly shall share some of the received comments about all the books in the following issue of LOUD AND CLEAR. Again, this is a test program and we will see how it goes.

Three different books, three different genres.

1.) **All the Light You Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr **DB 79182**

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence, and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

2.) **The Wright Brothers** by David G. McCullough **DB 82175**

Author of **The Greater Journey (DB 73472)** details the lives of brothers Wilbur (1867-1912) and Orville (1871-1948) Wright and their development of the first working airplane. Describes their early lives in Dayton, Ohio, work on airplanes, and the influence of their sister Katharine. Bestseller. 2015.

3.) **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte **DB 10886**

This 19<sup>th</sup> century English novel is about a plain and intelligent woman who becomes the governess at an estate, is caught up in the mysteries of the manor, and falls in love with the master of the house.

Let's get reading!

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## Staff News

On Friday, September 14, Fairfax County Public Library hosted a Staff Day where the staffs of all 22 branches attended a keynote presentation and participated in workshops to further their professional development and personal growth. The workshops covered such topics as “How to Deal with Challenging People” to a session on Virtual Reality.

**Jerry Herrera** and **Ken Plummer** conducted two workshops/tours of the Access Services branch. Each session had the maximum number of twenty attendees and all left with a greater knowledge of the services that Access Services provide.

Fairfax County Government Channel 16 completed the ‘Check It Out’ episode featuring the Access Services Library. Our thanks goes out to all the crew members from Channel 16, the staff members and the volunteers who assisted in making this production. You haven’t seen it yet? So, go ‘Check It Out’ on You Tube, <https://youtu.be/zW2zeHAG9P>.

Reader Advisor, **Masuma Sarwar**, will be attending the October 2018 session of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) orientation program.

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## Web Corner: Three Sites to See

### Fairfax County Office of Elections

For any and all questions about this year’s election.

### Fairfax County Office of Elections website

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

### AFB’s Technology Resources for People with Vision Loss

Blindness or visual impairment can have a profound impact on your life, but you are still in control. This site has an abundance of information to help you, whether you’re visually impaired, losing vision, or know someone affected by vision loss. Explore this resource and discover how to continue living a healthy, productive life with vision loss.

**AFBs Technology Resources website <http://www.afb.org/info/living-with-vision-loss/technology/12>**

## **DC Arts & Access Network**

The DC Arts Access Network (DCAAN) has created a calendar listing upcoming accessible performances and events at cultural arts organizations across the DC Metro region. One can sign up to receive their newsletter.

**[www.dcaan.org](http://www.dcaan.org)**

## **Web Corner: An App and a Website**

This came to our attention from the **DFS Disability Newsletter** *Access Fairfax, August 2, 2018*

Access A11y is an app that will allow people who use wheelchairs, canes, hand crutches, or other mobility devices to discover, review, and rate the accessibility of stores and restaurants in the Greater Washington, D.C. area and New York City (and eventually, across the country), ideally finding spaces that are inclusive and accessible, and ultimately living up to the promise of the ADA.

Imagine going out to eat, drink, and shop without the hassle of paying an extra visit to the establishment or phoning ahead to determine if the place is accessible. And then imagine not having to take a chance on an employee's understanding of what accessible means. Having this kind of information at your fingertips can mean the difference between going out and embracing one's independence or avoiding going out altogether.

**Website: <http://accessa11y.org>**

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## The Kennedy Center Audio Described Theater

The Kennedy Center strives to make its performances and facilities accessible to all patrons. Several shows in the 2018-2019 season have scheduled an audio described performance. The shows include operas, and plays/musicals such as Anastasia, Miss Saigon, Hello Dolly and several others.

For more information about accessibility or to request an accommodation, please contact the Accessibility Office at 202-416-8727 (voice) or [access@kennedy-center.org](mailto:access@kennedy-center.org). For ticket information for an audio described performance, please call the service desk of the Kennedy Center at 202-416-8529 (voice) or visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org). It is also possible to subscribe to a series of audio described events and guarantee your seats by contacting the Subscriptions Office at 202-416-8500 or email [subs@kennedy-center.org](mailto:subs@kennedy-center.org).

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## Do Not Forget the Magazines and Newspapers

Access Services customers can enjoy over fifty magazines and newspapers through the National Library Service (NLS). A list of the available titles can be found under 'Audio Magazines' in all editions of Talking Book Topics. Some magazines are recorded by NLS, some are in Braille and some are sent out via the magazine publisher. Magazines are mailed directly to your home address. Please be aware that it can take up to eight weeks for a subscription to get started. For further information call Access Services at 703-324-8380 or email us at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Other organizations that provide newspapers or magazines to Access Services customers include the National Federation for the Blind (NFB), Choice Magazine Listing and The Washington Metropolitan Ear.

The NFB sponsors the NFB-Newsline that provides access to more than 400 newspapers and magazines. Again, call Access Services for more information.

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners can download or receive by mail 12 hours of great stories and articles chosen from 100 of the finest magazines, absolutely free of charge. For information call 1-888-724-6423 or visit [Choice Magazine Listening](#).

The Metropolitan Washington Ear (MWE) provides enables visually and physically disabled individuals to "read" (hear) the morning paper, yesterday's paper and selected other publications - any time of day or night, seven days a week. Using their own touch-tone telephones, they can access all of the available publications, whenever they choose to do so. For more information, call 301-681-6636 or email: [information@washear.org](mailto:information@washear.org).

We want to 'keep you reading' your favorite magazines and newspapers!

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## U.S. Currency Reader, iBill

NLS partners with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) in support of its U.S. Currency Reader Program, to provide currency reader devices, free of charge, to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The program is part of the U.S. government's Meaningful Access Initiative to assist individuals who experience difficulties identifying U.S. currency.

The currency reader, called the iBill Talking Banknote Identifier, is a compact device that announces a note's value in one of three ways: voice, pattern of tones, or pattern of vibrations. Just insert a note into the device and press the button on the side to have the denomination identified.

The currency reader does not identify foreign or counterfeit banknotes. The size of a key fob, it can be carried in a pocket or purse, clipped to a belt, or attached to a keychain or lanyard. It operates on a single AAA battery, which typically lasts for more than a year. The initial battery is included



For information regarding this program call Camilla at 202-707-4408 or email her at [meaningfulaccess@bep.org](mailto:meaningfulaccess@bep.org).

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## Contact Us

If you have questions, comments or suggestions concerning the Loud & Clear newsletter, please call Ken Plummer at 703-324-8389. You may also e-mail him at [access@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:access@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)



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12000 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 324  
Fairfax, VA 22035



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